

REMARKS**Introduction**

The present application has been carefully studied and amended in view of the outstanding Office Action dated June 30, 2006, and reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Status of claims

Claims 1 through 13 have been examined on the merits.

Claims 2 to 13 are currently pending.

Claim 9 has been amended to include such language that no reference to claim 1 is needed, by incorporating the relevant portions of claim 1. Claim 12 has been rewritten to depend on claim 9, and the claim language has been improved in accordance with the suggestion of the Examiner, by including the steps involved in the process.

Claim 5 has been amended to be directed only to those monoepoxides **A1** and diepoxides **A2** which are further defined in the characterising portion of this claim.

Claim 1 has been cancelled. Claims 2 to 8 have been amended to depend on process claim 9.

No new matter has therefore been introduced, and entry of the amended claims is respectfully requested.

The Office Action***Rejection under 35 U. S. C. § 112***

Claims 5 and 12 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. 112 , second paragraph, as being indefinite for not particularly pointing out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicants regard as the invention.

It is believed that by virtue of the amendments made to these claims, all objections under 35 U. S. C. 112, second paragraph have been rendered moot.

Rejection under 35 U. S. C. 102 (b)

Claims 1 to 8 have been rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by Zengel et al., US Patent 4,437,960. Currently claim 1 has been cancelled, and claims 2-8 now depend from claim 9.

The Zengel reference discloses cathodically depositable aqueous binder comprising reaction products of an epoxidized polydiene A, and/or a bis glycidyl ether B of a polyphenol, and an amide compound C formed from one or more higher essentially unsaturated fatty acids and a polyamine, which amide compound C can contain a ketimino or hydroxyl group, and/or one hydrazide compound D, and if necessary an organic secondary amine E.

The reaction sequence as particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in process claim 9 is neither disclosed nor rendered obvious by the Zengel reference. Therefore, the subject matter of the instant application as defined in amended claims 2-9 is clearly patentable over this reference.

Claims 1 to 8 have also been rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by the GB reference, 1 295 329, to Ciba Geigy. As noted above, claim 1 has been cancelled, and claims 2-8 now depend from claim 9.

This reference is directed to a process of manufacturing a reaction product of a polyepoxide compound, a polymeric fatty acid, and a basic polyamide, wherein a reaction product a) of at least one polyepoxide a') having at least two epoxide groups per molecule and at least one polymeric unsaturated fatty acid a'') with an equivalent ratio

(ratio of amounts of substance) of epoxide groups to acid groups of from 0.5:1 to 0.95:1, with a basic polyamide b) obtained by condensation of a polymeric unsaturated fatty acid b') and a polyalkylene polyamine b'') in the presence of an organic solvent, with an equivalent ratio (ratio of amounts of substance) of acid groups in component a) to amino groups in component b) of from 1:04 to 1.6.

The process of claim 9 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious by this reference.

Claims 1 to 8 have further been rejected under 35 U. S. C. 102 (b) as being anticipated by the Shiraishi reference, JP Publ. No. 63-243,170. Here again claim 1 has been cancelled and claims 2-8 now depend from claim 9.

This reference discloses a composition comprising an epoxy resin A, a compound having an imiazolien riong and an amide bond, an active amino compound C such as one prepared from a phenol and an amino-terminated cound formed by reaction of a polyamine and an aromatic polyglycidyl amine. and a phenolic cuting accelerator D. The compound B can be prepare dby reacting a fatty acid and an aliphatic polymaine followed by reaction with (meth)acrylic acid.

The sequence of process steps defined in claim 9 is neither anticipated nor rendered obvious from this reference.

There is also no teaching provided by any of the combinations of the cited documents which would make obvious the process as claimed in independent claim 9.

It is therefore deemed that the present invention as now particularly pointed out and distinctly claimed in amended claim 9 and the other dependent claims is not disclosed or suggested by the cited art, and favorable reconsideration of the rejected claims is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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